

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

**Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013**

**Question: E13-175**

**OUTCOME 2:** Access to Pharmaceutical Services

**Topic:** PBS listing of RU486

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Senator Madigan

**Question:**

I believe that there is a campaign to have RU486 listed as eligible for listing under the Pharmaceutical benefits Scheme. What determines the criteria for receiving such listing and what is the level of subsidy provided under the PBS?

**Answer:**

Medicines are listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) based on the advice of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC), an independent, expert advisory body, with its functions defined in the *National Health Act 1953* (the Act).

The PBAC considers each PBS listing submission having regard to the safety, clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness (value-for-money) of the medicine for the intended use, in comparison with other available treatments (including non-pharmaceutical treatments).

The level of subsidy provided under the PBS varies for each PBS medicine – it is the difference between the PBS patient co-payment and the price the Government pays the sponsor for the medicine, based on the advice of the PBAC.